

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 20, 2015

SA2015-002

Andy Lethbridge  
Electrical Superintendent  
Trinity Public Utilities District  
P.O. Box 1216  
Weaverville, CA 96093-1216

**SUBJECT:** Audit of Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD)

Dear Ms. Lethbridge:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Jamie Lau of my staff conducted a substation audit of TPUD on June 16 and 17, 2015. The audit included a review of TPUD's records and field inspections of its substation facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of General Order 174. A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than August 24, 2015, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by TPUD to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact Jamie Lau at (415) 703-2233 or [jamie.lau@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jamie.lau@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fadi Daye".

Fadi Daye, P.E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division  
California Public Utilities Commission

Enclosure: Audit Findings

Cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, ESRB, CPUC  
Alok Kumar, P.E., Senior Utilities Engineer Supervisor, ESRB, CPUC  
Jamie Lau, P.E., Utilities Engineer, ESRB, CPUC

## Audit Findings

**Company: Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD)**

**Substation Audit**

**Date: June 16 and 17, 2015**

<b>A.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>TPUD – all cities</b>
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	6/16/2015 & 6/17/2015
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<b><u>Lack of Inspection Corrective Work Orders</u></b>	
	GO 174, Rule 33.1, Records, requires a substation inspection to include scheduled date of corrective actions.	
	TPUD did not include scheduled date of corrective action.	

<b>B.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>TPUD – all cities</b>
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	6/16/2015 & 6/17/2015
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<b><u>Lack of Annual Reporting to CPUC</u></b>	
	GO 174, Rule 40, Annual Filings, states in part,	
	<p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>40.1 No later than July 1st of each year, each Operator shall transmit to the Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch (USRB) an Inspection Program Summary.</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>40.2 No later than July 1st of each year, each Operator shall transmit to the CPSD [SED] a report summarizing completed and past due Inspections for the prior calendar year</i></p>	
	TPUD has not submitted any annual filings to CPUC.	

**We identified the following violations during the field audit:**

<b>C.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Lewiston substation
	<b>Equipment:</b>	Transformer Bank 1
	<b>Previous Visit by TPUD:</b>	5/18/2015
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	6/16/2015
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Abandoned Metal Object Adjacent to Structure</u></b></p> <p>GO 174, Rule 12, General, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Substations shall be designed, constructed and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to promote the safety of workers and the public and enable adequacy of service.</i></p> <p>An abandoned fan was found in the substation yard. We consider such a condition a tripping hazard.</p>		

<b>D.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Hayfork Substation
	<b>Equipment:</b>	Regulator Bank 1
	<b>Previous Visit by TPUD:</b>	5/14/2015
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	6/17/2015
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Damaged Concrete Pad</u></b>		
GO 174, Rule 12, General, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Substations shall be designed, constructed and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to promote the safety of workers and the public and enable adequacy of service.</i></p>		
The concrete pad supporting Regulator Bank 1 was damaged on one of its corners.		

<b>E.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Hayfork Substation
	<b>Equipment:</b>	Regulator Bank 1
	<b>Previous Visit by TPUD:</b>	5/14/2015
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	6/17/2015
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Uncovered Electrical Conduit</u></b>		
GO 174, Rule 12, General, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Substations shall be designed, constructed and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to promote the safety of workers and the public and enable adequacy of service.</i></p>		
An electrical conduit connected to a regulator was above grade across the yard. We consider such a condition a tripping hazard.		

<b>F.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Hayfork Substation
	<b>Equipment:</b>	Storage Building
	<b>Previous Visit by TPUD:</b>	5/14/2015
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	6/17/2015
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Outdoor Electrical Outlet Unprotected</u></b>		
GO 174, Rule 12, General, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Substations shall be designed, constructed and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to promote the safety of workers and the public and enable adequacy of service.</i></p>		
An electrical outlet on the outside of the storage building was not protected from water intrusion.		

<b>G.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Hayfork Substation
	<b>Equipment:</b>	LTC Bank 2
	<b>Previous Visit by TPUD:</b>	5/14/2015
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	6/17/2015
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Malfunction Transformer Ventilation Fan</u></b>		
GO 174, Rule 30.1, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Each Operator shall establish, update as needed, and follow an Inspection Program.</i></p>		
TPUD's Substation Condition Assessment Checklist identifies non-working LTC fans as a condition to be documented during a monthly inspection.		
Two out of three LTC fans were not working. This condition was not documented during TPUD's monthly inspection.		